



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Sean Kelly, Vice Chairman Chris Todd, Regular Members Donna Resutek and David Hurley, and Alternates Stefanie Cunningham and Bryan Platt

ABSENT: Alternate Sulakshana Thanvanthri

STAFF

PRESENT: Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner and Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Sean Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce (TCCC)

Ms. Houlihan reported the Chamber of Commerce had two Business After Hours events in town, there was one on May 21st at the Ivy's and another on June 11th at Homestead. Ms. Houlihan attended both events. The next Business After Hours is June 25th in Vernon at Earthlight from 5PM to 7PM. The event requires an RSVP. There is additional information on TCCC's website.

2. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan reported the Modern Milkman has gone from 100 participants since March to over 260 to date; and, has expanded service to Somers, Stafford, Vernon, Tolland, South Windsor, and East Windsor. They have also expanded their goods to include cookies, bread, and cottage cheese dip.

Ms. Houlihan reported Oakridge Dairy is hoping to obtain approval for a methane digester. Senator Anwar, former Mayor of South Windsor, recently organized a meeting Ms. Houlihan and First Selectman Spielman attended with Oakridge Dairy, representatives from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture, Eversource, and funding partners to support new legislation to allow farms that create animal waste onsite to seek approvals for methane digesters.

3. Report: Business Directory / Sustainable Ellington

- a. Shop Ellington Activity Report – April and May 2019
- b. 1.4 - Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses
- c. 1.5 - Promote Sustainable Workforce Development

Chairman Sean Kelly reviewed Shop Ellington activity. Ms. Houlihan reported the contract is up in September. Termination requires advanced notice. The commission discussed alternative programs for businesses and canceling Shop Ellington. They discussed holding an event at a local business like Cold Creek Brewery.

The commission referred back to the purpose for creating Shop Ellington, explaining it resulted from discussion to create a paperback business directory intended to get the word out about local businesses and to promote shopping local. The commission agreed the public finds out more about Ellington businesses on Facebook and Google. The Shop Ellington site has not gotten the traffic the commission was hoping for and they've supported it since 2013.

Ms. Houlihan reported there is a Small Business Saturday hosted throughout the United States every year, this year it's on November 30th. She suggested using the budget for an event for Small Business Saturday. The commission expressed concern with holding an event on November 30, 2019, because it was the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The commission had roundtable discussion on a date for a business event. Chairman Sean Kelly reported it might be hard to do in October because of the harvest. The commission choose October 16th as a date to have the event. By consensus the commission agreed to reschedule the October 9th meeting for a Business After Hours event on the 16th of October. Alternate Bryan Platt will ask Jamie Boucher, owner, if he would consider hosting the event at Cold Creek. Chairman Sean Kelly confirmed he will work with Ms. Houlihan to create a rough outline for a program.

MOVED (RESUTEK) SECONDED (CUNNINGHAM) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO NOT RENEW SHOP ELLINGTON CONTRACT FOR 2019.

3. Report: Tax Incentive/Abatement Programs
Nothing to report.

4. Report: Current Economic Activity
Ms. Houlihan reported construction activity for Big Y West has started and that Big Y will seek approvals for phase 2 soon. She explained Big Y purchased more land to the south of phase I to expand the scope of development plans. Ms. Houlihan reported Barnyard and Earthlight have an option on land to the north of Barnyard's current location and will submit for approvals.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the April 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes
MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (TODD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.
2. Correspondence:
 - a. Oakridge Times – May 20, 2019

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM) SECONDED (HURLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk